

REMARKS

In the Office action dated March 18, 2005, claims 1-33 stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-17, 22, 24-28, 30, and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,358,573 issued to Raoux et al. ("Raoux"). Claims 4-6, 12, 18-20, 29, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,691 issued to Sadinsky ("Sadinsky"). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,198,746 issued to Gyugyi et al. ("Gyugyi").

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-17, 22, 24-28, 30, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-17, 22, 24-28, 30, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Raoux. For a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the reference must disclose each and every limitation in the claim. Applicants respectfully submit that Raoux does not disclose every element of the claimed invention.

Applicants' claimed invention relates to a method for controlling the operation of a power generator of a sputtering system. Regarding claims 1 and 15, Raoux does not disclose, at least, receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and processing the plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm. Further, regarding claim 33, Raoux does not disclose, at least, receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and generating at least one command signal for

affecting the operating characteristics of the power generator based upon the plurality of fault status signals and a fault handling algorithm.

Briefly, Raoux discloses depositing CVD films on a substrate in a substrate processing chamber. Components of the deposition system are controlled by processor 85 over control lines 3 and 3A-D. (See, col. 10, lines 36-37). Processor 85 operates under the control of the system software, which includes sets of instructions that dictate, for example, timing mixture of gases, and gas flows. (See, col. 10, lines 45-50). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit Raoux fails to disclose, at least, receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and processing the plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm.

Further, the Office action states that Raoux discloses at col. 14, lines 54-61 processing a plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm. Applicants respectfully submit that Raoux discloses a ramp control algorithm for heater control, and does not disclose processing a plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm. (See, col. 14, lines 54-61).

Applicants thus respectfully submit that, at least for these reasons, claims 1, 15 and 33 are in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2-3, 7-11, 13-14, 16-17, 22, 24-28, 30, and 32 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 15, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also are allowable.

2. Rejection of Claims 4-6, 12, 18-20, 29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-6, 12, 18-20, 29, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux in view of Sadinsky. For the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to be proper, the combination must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that Raoux in combination with Sadinsky does not teach or suggest every claim element of the invention.

Specifically, as described above with respect to claims 1 and 15, Raoux and Sadinsky, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and processing the plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm.

Since claims 4-6, 12, 18-20, 29, and 31 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 15, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also are allowable.

3. Rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux. For the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to be proper, the reference alone or in combination with another must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that Raoux does not teach or suggest every claim element of the invention.

Specifically, as described above with respect to claim 15, Raoux does not teach or suggest receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and processing the plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm.

Since claim 21 depends directly from claim 15, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim also is allowable.

4. Rejection of Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raoux in view of Gyugyi. For the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to be proper, the combination must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that Raoux in combination with Gyugyi does not teach or suggest every claim element of the invention.

Specifically, as described above with respect to claim 15, Raoux and Gyugyi, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest receiving a plurality of fault status signals from a sputtering system within a period of time and processing the plurality of fault status signals with a fault handling algorithm.

Since claim 23 depends directly from claims 15, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim also is allowable.

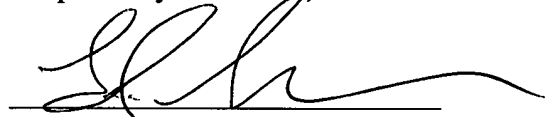
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 1-33.

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Respectfully submitted,



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